

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 00358 01 OF 02 091520Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DPW-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

EB-11 AGR-20 /179 W

----- 052696

R 091150Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0622

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 00358/1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S JANUARY 4 CAN THO SPEECH

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REFS: A) SAIGON 0193; B) SAIGON 0232; C) SAIGON 0265

1. THIS TELEGRAM TRANSMITS AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE FULL TEXT OF A JANUARY 4, 1973, SPEECH BY PRESIDENT THIEU IN CAN THO. PRESIDENT THIEU SPOKE ON THE OCCASION OF THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUNDING OF MILITARY REGION 4. THE TRANSLATION IS FROM A TAPE RECORDING OBTAINED BY CONSULATE GENERAL CAN THO. ANALYSIS FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR COMMANDING GENERAL AND COMBATANTS OF ALL RANKS OF THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 00358 01 OF 02 091520Z

FOURTH ARMY CORPS AND OF THE FOURTH TACTICAL ZONE,

I HAVE COME HERE TODAY PERSONALLY TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE FOURTH ARMY CORPS. TODAY, I COME HERE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GROWTH TO MATURITY OF A GREAT ENTITY THAT HAS ACCOMPLISHED WORTHY SUCCESSES FOR THE NATION. ALSO TODAY I PERSONALLY HAVE COME TO APPRAISE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH ALL OF YOU HAVE MADE SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, REGARDLESS TO WHICH ARM OR BRANCH YOU BELONG.

FIRST, I WANT TO PRAISE YOUR VIGILANCE, YOUR SEAL AND YOUR ACOMPLISHMENTS IN HALTING AND THWARTING THE COMMUNISTS' LAND-GRAB SCHEMES IN THE MEKONG DELTA.

OUR COMPATRIOTS, AS WELL AS YOUR BROTHERS-IN-ARMS THROUGH THE COUNTRY, ARE ALL AWARE THAT RIGHT AFTER THE SIGNATURE OF THE PARIA AGREEMENT EVERYBODY HELD THE STRONG HOPE THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD SCRUPULOUSLY HONOR THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND THAT A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTION WOULD BE HELD WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE OR FOUR MONTHS FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VN TO DETERMINE THIER ONW DESTINY. HOWEVER, THE GREATER OUR HOPES, THE GREATER OUR DISAPPOINTMENT, BECAUSE RIGHT AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE CGNPD SCHEMED TO SHATTER ALL ATTEMPTS TO REST ORE PEACE. AND AFTER

SIGNATURE OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT VIOLATIONS GREW MORE AND MORE SERIOUS. IT CAN BE SAID NOW THAT THE WAR IN SOUTH VIET-NAM HAS ONCE MORE BEEN REKINDLED BY COMMUNIST NORTH VIET-NAM. FOR THIS REASON, OUR COMPATRIOTS AND ALL OF YOU CAN SEE THAT THE POLITICAL SOLUTION WICH WAS AGREED UPON BY COMMUNIST NORTH VIET-NAM ITSELF IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND WHICH IS TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM, CANNOT ACHIEVED BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF 300,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS STILL PRESENT IN THE SOUTH AT THE TIME OF THE AGREEMENT, AND OF THE ADDITIONAL CONTINGENT OF 100,000 WHO HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED INTO THE RVN DURING 1973 WITH 600 NEW TANKS AND 600 NEW ARTILLERY PIECES. COMMUNIST NVN HAS ALSO REPAIRED ROADS AND AIRFIELDS IN SOUTH VN.

THIS IS WHY WE CAN SAY THAT THE WAR IS STILL HERE, AND THIS WAR IS STAGED BY COMMUNIST NORTH VIET-NAM. THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT IS NO MORE THAN A PUPPET AND CONTINUES TO BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR WAGING WAR FOR COMMUNIST NORTH VIET-NAM, AS IT HAS BEEN FROM ITS FOUNDING TO THE PRESENT. BECAUSE OF THAT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT REQUIRES THAT THOSE FROM THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT BE GIVEN THE RIGHT FREELY TO DISCUSS A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ELECTION TOGETHER WITH US. BUT, FOR THE PAST YEAR, NFL MEMBERS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 00358 01 OF 02 091520Z

IN PARIS AND SAIGON HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT PUPPETS. THEY HAVE DONE ONLY

WHAT THE COMMUNIST NORTH VN TOLD THEM, THEY HAVE SPOKEN ONLY WHAT THE COMMUNIST NORTH VN SAID TO THEM, WITHOUT INDEPENDENCE, WITHOUT FREEDOMNT TO MAKE DECISIONS, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO TAKE POLITICAL DECISIONS WHICH WOULD

ENNABLE THEM ALONG WITM US TO IMPLEMENT THE RIGHT SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE 19 MILLION SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THEY DO TMIS WITH

THE 300,000 COMMUNIST TROOPS WHO REMAINED BEHIND PLUS THE 100,000
RECENTLY ADDED, WHICH EXERT TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE NLF GANG, WHICH
KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON THOSE OF THE OTHER SIDE IN SOUTH VN AND WHICH
PROD THEIR BACKS WITH BYONETS, WHICH ORDER THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR

AGGRESSION, TO KEEP ON SERVING AS A TOOL, AND TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES
TO THE OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNIST NORTH VN: TO CONQUER THE SOUTH.

THAT IS WHY THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATION THIS
PAST YEAR. THE NLF SIT THERE WITHOUT ANY DECISION-MAKING POWER,
WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT OUR SENSIBLE AND RATIONAL PROPOSAL FOR
AN ELECTION. THEREFORE I CONCLUDE THAT THE QUESTION OF A
SOLUTION FOR SOUTH VN IS ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF COMMUNIST NORTH VN;
PEACE WILL NEVER COME AND A GENERAL ELECTION THAT HAS BEEN LONG
EXPECTED BY EVERYBODY WILL NEVER TAKE PLACE, AS LONG AS THE NVN
TROOPS STILL REMAIN IN THE SOUTH AND AS LONG AS TH
E E E E E E E

ADP000
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 00358 02 OF 02 091752Z

51
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DPW-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

EB-11 AGR-20 /179 W
----- 054263

R 091150Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0623
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USDEL JEC PARIS
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 00358

ONLY WHEN THE DAY COMES WHEN THE COMMUNISTS SAY, "WE WANT TO
TALK ABOUT A CEASEFIRE, ABOUT PEACE, WE ARE WILLING TO CONDUCT A
GENERAL ELECTION," THEN WE WILL HALT OUR OPERATIONS PRECISELY AT
THE MOMENT THE COMMUNISTS HALT THEIRS. FROM 1945 UNTIL 1954, AND
THIS TIME AS WELL, WE HAVE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH EXPERIENCE OF THE
TRICKY AND DECEPTIVE COMMUNISTS. WE SHOULD NOT SIT QUIETLY
AND NURTURE ILLUSIONS. AS VIETNAMESE, WE HAVE COUV RBTAND

THE TRUE SITUATION OF VIET-NAM, WE HAVE TO DEFEND VIET-NAM
AND OUR VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. WE SHALL NOT LISTEN TO ANY GROUNDLESS
CRITICISMS, NO MATTER WHERE IT COMES FROM. IF OUR PEOPLE
WERE TO LOSE, IF THIS COUNTRY WERE TO FALL, NOBODY WOULD COME
TO OUR RESCUE. IT IS WE WHO MUST SAVE OURSELVES. GOOD WILL,
LONGING FOR PEACE MUST MEET WITH POSITIVE COMMUNIST ACTIONS
AND GOOD WILL. OTHERWISE, WE SHALL, AT MOMENTS OF OUR CHOO-
SING AND TO THE EXTENT WE BELIEVE WE MUST, COUNTER THE COM-
UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 00358 02 OF 02 091752Z

MUNISTS' AGGRESSION.

TO YOU, SOLDIERS, IN PARTICULAR, IT MAY BE SAID THAT THE
WAR HAS STARTED AGAIN. NOW WE HAVE TO FIGHT THE WAR WITH
VIETNAMESE MEANS, WITH VIETNAMESE TACTICS, WITH VIETNAMESE
STRATEGY, WHICH MEET OUR NEEDS, ADJUSTED TO THE AMOUNT OF
FOREIGN AID WE RECEIVE. WE HAVE CONSTANTLY TO MODERNIZE OUR
TACTICS, TO ADJUST OUR TECHNIQUES AND TO FIGHT THE WAR
EFFECTIVELY AT MINIMUM COST. ALSO, WE HAVE TO FIGHT THE
WAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR ECONOMIC CONDITION. OUR ARMED
FORCES CONSTITUTE A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE, AN INSTRUMENT OF THE
PEOPLE TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE, TO COMBAT THE AGGRESSOR, AND CON-
CURRENTLY AS A TOOL AND A COMMONALITY TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE
IN DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY. EVERY ACTION WE TAKE, IN ADDITION
TO KILLING THE REBELS AND DEFEATING THE AGGRESSOR, MUST ALSO
AID THE PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. IF WE ONLY
FIGHT THE WAR, WITHOUT PARTICIPATING IN DEVELOPMENT, THE WAR
WILL EXHAUST OUR PEOPLE AND WE WOULD THUS FALL INTO THE COM-
MUNISTS' TRAP. WE, THEREFORE, MUST BE REALISTIC IN 1974.
THERE ARE FOUR VITAL TASKS WHICH ALL OF OUR PEOPLE, SOL-
DIERS, CADRES, AND CIVIL SERVANTS MUST ABSOLUTELY CARRY OUT:

TO STRENGTHEN TERRITORIAL SECURITY TO THE MAXIMUM, BECAUSE
ONLY AFTER ACHIEVING MAXIMUM AND EFFECTIVE TERRITORIAL SECURI-
TY CAN WE SPEAK OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURAL DEVE-
LOPMENT, AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
PEOPLE.

THAT IS A PREREQUISITE CONDITION, AND THAT IS TO BE UNDERTA-
KEN BY THE TROOPS AND BY THE LEADERS OF THE MASSES.

THE SE*OND TASK IS TO COMPLETE THE ADMINISTRATIVE EVOLU-
TION, TO FORM A CORE OF GOVERNMENT CADRES WHO ARE EFFICIENT,
POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE, AND CAPABLE OF LEADING THE MAS-
SE. OTHERWISE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN
FOOD WILL BE ONLY EMPTY SLOGANS. TO DEVELOP THE ECONOMY
AND TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD IT IS NECESSARY TO
HAVE A CORE OF EFFICIENT CADRES, AT EVERY LEVEL ALL THE
WAY DOWN TO THE PEOPLE, TO LEAD THE MASSES, TO GUIDE THE
MASSES, TO HELP THE MASSES, TO PROVIDE THE MASSES WITH RE-

SOURCES, TO GIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MASSES. THIS MUST
UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 00358 02 OF 02 091752Z

BE DONE PARALLEL WITH TERRITORIAL SECURITY AND THE EFFEC-
TIVE DEFENSE MEASURES CARRIED OUT BY THE ARMED FORCES.
BESIDES THE THREE PROBLEMS: TERRITORIAL SURITY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, AND COMPLE-
TION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION, THERE IS ANOTHER IM-
PORTANT PROBLEM THAT IS TO BE RESOLVED - TO MAKE OUR SOCIETY
STRONGER. IF THE SOCIETY IS NOT STRENGTHENED, OUR TOIL IN THE
SEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT, THE VITAL ENERGY EXPENDED IN
DEVELOPMENT, THE DEVELOPMENTAL RESULTS ACHIEVED, WOULD ALL
BECOME USELESS.

THESE ARE FOUR MAIN TASKS, THE FOUR IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES
IN THE YEAR 1974 FOR ALL THE PEOPLE, FOR THE ENTIRE ARMED
FORCES.

FOR THE FIGHTERS OF THE 4TH ARMY CORPS, THIS MEKONG DELTA IS
THE GRANARY OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, THE VERY VITALS OF THE
WHOLE COUNTRY. TO THIS MOMENT YOU HAVE EFFECTIVELY DEFENDED
IT. YOU MUST CONTINUE TO DEFEND IT EFFECTIVELY.

I HAVE SAID THAT THE BLOCKADE OF THE ECONOMY OF THE ENEMY
IS AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC TOOL TO WEAKEN THE ENEMY, TO PREVENT
THE LATTER FROM LAUNCHING A NEW INVASION. A GRAIN OF RICE
IS A BULLET FIRED INTO THE HEAD OF THE ENEMY. ALONG WITH THE
LARGE-SCALE EXTERMINATION OF THE ENEMY AT THE FRONT, IT IS
NECESSARY TO CONTROL (BLOCKADE) RICE TIGHTLY IN THE REAR.
FIRST OF ALL, WE MUST ANNIHILATE THE INFRASTRUCTURE
OF THE COMMUNISTS. SOME PEOPLE CRITICIZE US FOR BEING WARLIKE
AND BLOODTHIRSTY. THOSE PEOPLE ARE NOT SOUND OF MIND, OR
THEY SPEAK LIKE THE COMMUNISTS. THERE IS NO REASON FOR A
PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE TO ENDURE THE KILLING EVERY DAY OF HUN-
DREDS OF SOLDIERS, HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT VILLAGERS AND HAMLET
CADRES, HUNDREDS OF LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE. WE CANNOT STAND WITH
ARMS FOLDED, WE CANNOT GO ON TALKING ABOUT HUMANE OBJECTIVES
WITH THE COMMUNISTS, CARRYING ON ABOUT THEORETICAL DEMOC
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPEECHES, ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON00358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740153/aaaabyeu.tel
Line Count: 259
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) SAIGON 0193; B) SAIGON 0232; C) S, AIGON 0265
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S JANUARY 4 CAN THO SPEECH CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005